

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 3 of 1876.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 15th January, 1876.

THE *Barisál Vártávaha* of the 22nd and 29th December 1875 comments strongly on a criminal case recently tried by Mr. Bradbury, the Assistant Magistrate of Barisál, in which the District Superintendent of Police charged some mahájuns of the place with holding an unlawful assembly in the public streets. The defendants on their part charged the former with preventing them from chanting the *Hari Sankirtan*, which they had regularly done for many years past. The Magistrate dismissed the case against the Police Superintendent, but fined the mahájuns. The local public are greatly dissatisfied with this decision.

BARISAL
VARTAVAHA,
December 22nd and
29th, 1875.

2. The *Suhrid* of the 5th January observes, in reference to the approaching retirement of Lord Northbrook, that in spite of his numerous admirers in India, His Excellency's administration will be remembered with sadness by the natives. By the deposition of Mulharrao Guicowar, by his dealings with Sir Sálár Jung, and his making invidious distinctions between Englishmen and the natives, but more especially by his concealing the true state of the country from the Prince of Wales during the visit of His Royal Highness to India, Lord Northbrook has shown himself more worthy of being classed with administrators like Lords Dalhousie and Mayo than Bentinck and Canning; and why should his retirement be a matter of sadness or rejoicing to us, considering that his successor will never repair the errors committed by him, while there is nothing to hinder the new Viceroy from following the policy of Lord Northbrook.

SUHRID,
January 5th, 1876.

3. The same paper remarks with regret that the Prince of Wales was not informed of the true state of the country and the people during his visit to Calcutta. This is clearly seen from the reply to the municipal address, in which he referred to the wealth and happiness of the people. An erroneous impression, most injurious to the interests of India, has been produced in his mind by the grandeur of the displays made on the occasion. We cannot therefore any longer expect to find our grievances redressed by his sympathetic efforts. India will continue to be unlucky.

SUHRID.

4. The *Bhárat Mihir* (a new paper) of the 5th January observes, on the re-organization of the Calcutta Municipality proposed by Sir Richard Temple, that the measure will never be beneficial unless the entire power in connection with the municipal administration be vested in the ratepayers. Government will doubtless nominate its own officers to the Commissionerships, if it has the power to do so, and it is well known that officials are more disposed to do wrong than right. Moreover the latter can never be so competent as those chosen by the rate-payers themselves to judge of their wants and grievances. Sir Richard Temple's proposal that Government should reserve to itself the right of direction in important matters, such as the police, taxation, works of public utility, &c., is also open to objection. This will

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 5th, 1876.

seriously interfere with the work of "self-government" which Sir George Campbell was so anxious to teach the natives. We repeat what we have said before, that Government will never be so able to ascertain the true requirements of the ratepayers as they themselves. A reformation of the Calcutta Municipality would first of all require the separation of the offices of Chairman of the Justices and the Commissioner of Police, the conferring of the elective franchise on the ratepayers, and the submission to Government of the accounts and the reports of the proceedings of the municipality every month. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the Commissioners should also be held responsible for the proper expenditure of the municipal funds.

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 5th, 1876.

5. The same paper asks the leading wealthy natives of Eastern Bengal to set up a cloth-mill in some place in that province and dedicate it to the Prince of Wales. Such a measure, if carried out, will be an evidence of the loyalty of the people of Eastern Bengal to the British Government, and by reviving a declining industry be a source of immense benefit to the whole country.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
January 7th, 1876.

6. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* of the 7th January dwells on the necessity of establishing a sub-division at Kotchándpore in the district of Tipperah, and not at Tubkibogrâ, as has been proposed. Possessing facilities of communication by land and water, and the advantages of a healthy climate and cheap prices, Kotchándpore is eminently fitted to be the head-quarters of the new sub-division, while Tubkibogrâ is an insignificant and unhealthy place, abounding in jungle and wild beasts.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
January 7th, 1876.

7. In a letter communicated to the *Bhârat Sangskâarak* of the 7th January the writer draws the attention of Government to the fearful prevalence of cholera in South Baraset and adjacent villages in the sub-division of Barripore. Medical aid should be sent without delay.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

8. The same paper is exceedingly grateful to the Lieutenant-Governor for the kind interest His Honor has taken in the proceedings of the newly established Indian League. It is to be hoped that the latter will follow the sound advice of Sir Richard Temple, and, acting conjointly with Dr. Sarkâr's Science Association Committee, will succeed in establishing a college for teaching practical science to natives.

GRÁMVARTÁ
PRÁKASHIKÁ,
January 8th, 1876.

9. Whatever ill-natured critics may say as to the motives of the Royal visit, the *Grámvartá Prákashiká* of the 8th January observes, it cannot but prove ultimately beneficial to this country. The British public have already begun to take an increasing interest in India and its people, and the Royal visit will enable them to enlarge the sphere of their knowledge of this great dependency of the British Crown. The visit will also be remembered with gratitude on account of the numerous works of public utility and charity which have been initiated to commemorate it, as well as for the impulse given by it to native fine and decorative arts.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
January 8th, 1876.

10. The *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 8th January asks Government to use means for preventing the adulteration of all articles by the vendors thereof. The evil has assumed formidable dimensions at the present time, genuine articles being hardly procurable. Some higher police officers should be appointed by Government to inspect things that are offered for sale.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

11. We take the following article from the same paper, entitled the "Landlord and Tenant:"—"We have already shown how the tenantry have improved their condition of late years, and shall now proceed to describe how some of them gradually came to possess authority over the rest of their class. One of them obtains for cultivation some pieces of land from the zemindar on a low rental, but being unable to cultivate so much himself he sublets it at a profit (of half the entire produce) to another. The first,

if he knows how to manage his property well, can lay up money in a short time. He gives loans, and to show his respectability he erects a room which he calls his bungalow or cutcherry. And now, instead of himself cultivating any land, he leases it all out in putní to others, and so becomes a putnídar under the zemindar, and comes to be respected by many of the tenantry. Some three or four such men may be found in almost every village, who direct the tenantry as they please. The disputes of the zemindars are really with these men. The zemindar is not allowed to share in the enhanced value of the land, the whole of it being enjoyed by these headmen. The latter moreover take upon themselves the power of deciding all civil and criminal matters, and the money which is easily realized by this means is divided amongst themselves. The slightest enquiry will bring to light the fact that the headmen really fine the ryots. If the zemindars in any way interfere with these matters, they begin to offer opposition, and invite the tenantry to rise against them.

"The zemindars should in justice be allowed to enhance the rents where there are sufficient grounds for doing so. In the khás meháls Government always raises the rent-rate with a rise in the value of the land, while the zemindars have to resort to expensive litigation for this purpose. The expenses of litigation often prove ruinous both to the landlord and the tenant, the more so from the rent suits being tried in the civil courts, where considerable delay and inconvenience are occasioned to the suitors. It would be well if Government were to re-transfer rent suits to the Collectors."

12. The *Dáccá Prakásh* of the 9th January does not see why Dr. Robson, the Inspector of Schools in Eastern Bengal, has proposed to transfer all his Deputy Inspectors except one to different places. Transfers of educational officers do not generally prove beneficial: they are especially undesirable in the present instance, from the officers being all able and experienced men, thoroughly conversant with the educational requirements of the province.

DACCA PRAKASH,
January 9th, 1876.

13. The *Sádháraní* of the 9th January laments that the Indian public have so soon forgotten the miseries of Mulharrao and Laksmi Báí. Now that their rejoicings in connection with the Royal visit are over, they should recall the picture of desolation and sadness presented by that unlucky couple.

SADHARANÍ,
January 9th, 1876.

14. Referring to the corruption, inefficiency, and oppressions of the police, the same paper remarks that these will continue to prevail so long as the pay of the constables be not raised, educated men enlisted into the police service, and the worthless but highly paid office of District Superintendent be not abolished. The work now done by the latter might be profitably and satisfactorily performed by the Native Deputy Magistrates. Sub-Deputy Collectors might also be employed with advantage in the police.

SADHARANÍ.

15. The *Sahachar* of the 10th January observes that the appointment of Lord Lytton to the Viceroyalty of India is not likely to give satisfaction to the public. This nobleman is not famous for talents of any high order, and it is to be feared that in appointing him Mr. Disraeli has made provision for one of his *protégés*. Under the circumstances, the promotion of the Duke of Buckingham would have been a wiser step.

SAHACHAR,
January 10th, 1876.

16. The same paper hopes that the Government of India will accord its sanction to the several branch railways proposed to be constructed in the different parts of Bengal by Sir Richard Temple. They are all important, and if opened will considerably facilitate the means of communication in the province, and give an impetus to the internal trade of Bengal.

SAHACHAR.

SAHACHAR,
January 10th, 1876.

The editor points out the advantages of a branch line from Barrackpore *via* Baraset to Jessore.

17. The same paper writes a lengthy editorial on the levy of the octroi duties by the Government of the North-Western Provinces, in connection with which a great deal of oppression is reported to be practised. These duties are in principle unjust, for while they are levied from poor persons who come to sell their articles in the cities, they are expended for the benefit of the citizens.

18. In an article on the approaching retirement of Lord Northbrook, the same paper dwells on the beneficent public measures of his administration. By the repeal of the income tax, his noble and successful exertions to suppress the famine, his masterly management of the finances, the quiet and peaceful manner of his administration, and his watchful supervision of the doings of the provincial governors, Lord Northbrook enjoyed the confidence of the public to a degree which few of his predecessors since the days of Lord Canning had ever done. Speculation is rife as to the motives which led to his premature resignation; possibly the cause is to be found in the difference with the Secretary of State on the tariff question.

SAHACHAR.

19. The same paper fears that the mission of Sir Louis Mallet and the approaching retirement of Lord Northbrook will be but preliminary to the reimposition of the income tax. Influenced by the merchants of Manchester, and eager to gratify them, if the Secretary of State abolishes the import duty on cotton goods, the revenue will suffer a considerable loss; and it is but too probable that there being no longer a Northbrook to oppose it, and under the administration of a Viceroy who will at best be but a tool in the hands of the Secretary of State, the income tax will be again imposed on the people. And if it were really to come to this pass, the whole of India would be justified in regarding the Marquis of Salisbury as an enemy to the country.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

R. J. ELLIS,

The 15th January, 1876.

Offg. Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 15th January, 1876.

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Barisál Vártávaha" ...	Barisál ...	Weekly ...	22nd and 29th December 1875.
2	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	5th January 1876.
3	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensing	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
4	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájsháhye ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
5	"Dacca Darshak" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
6	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
7	"Bhárat Sangskarak" ...	Harinávi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
8	"Burdwan Pracháriká" ...	Burdwan ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
9	"Grámvártá Prakashiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
12	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
13	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
14	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	4th and 11th January 1876.
15	"Sáptáhhik Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	10th January 1876.
16	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	10th and 13th January 1876.
17	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	6th to 12th January 1876.
18	"Bangavidyá Prakashiká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	10th January 1876.
19	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	8th ditto.

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